

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Takahiro IKEDA et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: August 20, 2003

For: EXTRACTING METHOD OF PATTERN  
CONTOUR, IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD,  
SEARCHING METHOD OF PATTERN EDGE,  
SCANNING METHOD OF PROBE,  
MANUFACTURING METHOD OF  
SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE, PATTERN  
INSPECTION APPARATUS, AND PROGRAM

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the Examiner's attention the document listed on attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of the listed document is attached. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the document listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that it was considered by making an appropriate notation on this form. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with the above-referenced application.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language document listed on the accompanying PTO-1449:

1. Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-016463- discloses methods to extract pattern edges using ROI of which slopes are capsule-like, half-circles,

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

quarter-circles. Also, discloses methods to extract pattern edges using iso-potential curves and calculated from gray-scale images. Also, an English-language abstract of this document is enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitutes "prior art." If the Examiner applies the document as prior art against any claim in the application and applicant determines that the cited document does not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document. Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should it be applied against the claims of the present application.

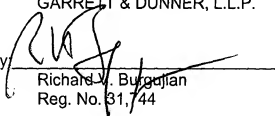
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 20, 2003

By:

  
Richard W. Burguljan  
Reg. No. 31,744

Enclosures  
RVB/FPD/sci

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER 

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No.	02887.0246	Serial No.	Not Yet Assigned
Applicant	Takahiro IKEDA		
Filing Date	August 20, 2003	Group:	Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
	2003-016463	01/17/03	JAPAN			ABSTRACT

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce